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Letters

Making Connections

Dear Editor:

I have been a devoted reader of *CRM* for many years, and the recent offering, "Connections: African-American History and CRM," has prompted me to make some comments about the *CRM* publication. This issue is an excellent example of what I expect the *CRM* to be—a publication that not only addresses topics important to resource managers in the parks, but also to our conservation and preservation partners throughout the country. By inviting individuals like Cheryl Brown Henderson, Director of the Brown Foundation in Topeka; and Ray Harper, Superintendent at Brown v. Board of Education NHS, to serve as guest editors of "Connections"—and by including in that issue material from the parks, states, and the private sector—you have demonstrated that *CRM* is truly a partnership venture in and of itself.

Used by educators for research and teaching; as a guide for museum staffs; as a tool for resource managers, many of whom are in remote parks and offices; and as a forum for exchanging ideas, *CRM* has reflected a steady level of excellence for a long time. Its goal, set by former Associate Director Jerry Rogers, to be an

internationally-respected source of technical information about cultural resource management problems and solutions, is being achieved. I commend Associate Director Kate Stevenson for continuing the high-quality work that is reflected in the many topical issues of *CRM*. I urge all park superintendents, interpretive specialists, maintenance personnel, and others charged with caring for our cultural patrimony to read, use, and contribute to this journal.

The scope of our efforts to recognize the numerous contributions of African Americans to our history, and the depth of our cooperation with state and local historical societies and preservation partners are truly outstanding. The "Connections" issue of *CRM* reminds all of us that the challenges and opportunities for changing the National Park Service cannot only be successfully met, but can also provide opportunities to improve our services to the American people.

In addition, the direction of the Service in recent years has been to improve the quality of our research upon which all of our interpretation is based, and to engage partners within the academic and historic preservation communities to achieve common goals. Once again, the "Connections" issue of *CRM* offers ample proof that we are moving in this direction. Our cooperation with these organizations and our partners outside the Service bodes well for the future of the NPS and

its interpretive programs. I believe *CRM* has done much to document our relationship with state, local, and private preservation agencies, as well as with other federal agencies; and I believe it has evolved to become one of our main educational and interpretive publications.

I look forward to receiving each copy of *CRM* and usually read all of the articles. I also have a cousin whose hobby is restoring old airplanes for the Seattle Flight Museum. He reads every issue cover to cover, and believes it is the best overall cultural resources magazine around. He uses it to tout the value of the National Park Service to many friends. Keep up the good work and my compliments to all who are involved in producing each issue of this publication.

—John J. Reynolds
Deputy Director
National Park Service



Dear Readers:

Volume 19, No. 2 of *CRM* was devoted entirely to recognizing the connections between cultural resources management and African-American history. The response to this issue from our many readers was immediate and indicated to the editors of *CRM* the vast interest in this history and the activities undertaken by the preservation community to preserve and interpret sites of importance in African-American history.

I would like to propose that we do a second issue of *CRM* devoted to more in-depth topics associated with this theme. In this issue we would like to hear from our readers who manage African-American historic sites. Let us know what you are doing to make your museum or historic site a success. What educational materials do you have? What resource management problems/solutions have you encountered? What property inventories have you developed? What approach are you taking to identify and preserve sites important in African-American history? How do you deal with the issues of slavery, civil rights, and the participation of African Americans in the context of American history?

There are many ways to teach and understand our history. Let us and the other readers of *CRM* know what you are doing and how successful you have been regarding the preservation, interpretation, and management of cultural resources pertaining to African-American history. Hopefully with the completion of this additional issue of *CRM* we will have a series of articles that illustrate the true scope and depth of this history that involves the many parks, programs, and people of the National Park Service, state and local governments, and the private sector which are connected to this history.

So send in your articles and suggestions for this issue. Also, we need a volunteer to serve as the guest editor for this issue. If you are interested please contact the editor

at 202-343-3411 or by email to ron_greenberg@nps.gov.

—Harry A. Butowsky
Historian, NPS

(Editor's note: It was not possible to include reports on all programs and activities related to African-American history and CRM in our "Connections" issue. The Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), for example, has recorded a good number of sites associated with African-American history, including units of the national park system such as Martin Luther King NHS, Frederick Scott Douglas House, Tuskegee Institute NHS, and Brown v. Board of Education NHS. HABS/HAER also recorded the town of Nicodemus and last summer they produced a list of Underground Railroad sites that they have recorded. Unfortunately, we did not report on this work, nor did we use any of the graphic or written documentation in the HABS/HAER collection for our "Connections" issue. We will include some of this documentation in the proposed second issue described above. (Please also see Lana Henry's article on George Washington Carver on page 44 of this issue.)

There Certainly is
an Air Force Reserve!

Dear Editor:

In her article, "Studying Armories," Vol. 19, No. 1, 1996, Nancy Todd states in "Who/What is the National Guard?" that "there is no Air Force Reserve." There most certainly is an Air Force Reserve! It operates and flies much of the Air Force's strategic transport fleet (C-141s, C-5s) and performs many other duties. The Acting Superintendent of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Josie Fernandez, is a USAFR Captain.

—Dr. Clifford Tobias
Historian, NPS
Philadelphia

Dear Editor:

I would like to take a moment and speak to the field about my first attendance at an Organization of American Historians (OAH) Conference, held in Chicago this past March. It was an insightful, thought provoking and beneficial experience.

Out of a conference of nearly 1,000 people, only 12 NPS staff from various parks and offices attended. Now, granted listening to PhD dissertations and ruminations may not be everyone's ideal conference agenda, but after all, the NPS is in the business of history, historical interpretation, historical preservation, etc. Surely we could learn something?

Why would one go? In short, it gave me a perspective on a whole discipline and culture of professionals who care deeply about things such as our resources, our stories, and our parks. The debates that rage in the history and museum profession are similar to debates I hear in the NPS. For example, one conference session focused on who owned the final say on history; the curator or the historian. I have sat through many similar discussions with NPS interpreters and historians mulling over the same point.

Do you manage a natural area park? There is something for everyone. Several sessions focused on the history of grazing fees, and in rethinking public property and conservation in the American west.

Another moderator asked how museums could make their stories more accessible and understandable to the public. What associations and organizations could they "partner" with to perhaps evaluate the effectiveness of museum exhibits? When I responded and suggested they contact another organization that holds a conference in October with roughly 1,000 participants—the National Association of Interpretation—a light bulb went off in the moderator's head! I was even

asked if I would organize a session next year at the OAH conference on interpretive planning so that historians could hear how historical facts and data are translated into themes, visitor experience goals, and operational objectives.

I sat in on the National Park Service Committee meeting of the OAH as well. NPS Chief Historian Dwight Pitcaithley was helping to put together OAH site visits which benefit both the parks and the historians that visit. I would welcome a group of visiting professional historians working with my staff to evaluate what may or may not be working, whether our stated objectives are being met, and outlining future courses of action. I would hope that they in turn would welcome the opportunity to see how "real world" constraints such as money and staff shortages all come into play in operations, as well as the need to interpret for a wide variety of audiences and understanding.

History does not belong to any one person or group. It belongs to us all. We all have a stake in making sure our parks are both historically and interpretively accurate, and that exhibits and programs are based on scholarly research. While attendance at the OAH conference does not insure that this will happen, it opens up lines of communication. I know that my park's story does not stop at the boundaries. For me, this became crystal clear as I saw the passion and the love of my park's resources and story echoed in people's faces and voices as they found out who I was and where I was from. The outreach that the NPS extends to those who care is immeasurable, and ultimately only serves to better protect our parks. Finally, and particularly for those who do not have a history background, attendance at the conference forces one to carefully think about how to incorporate and integrate the historical profession into operations,

and it's value to the park and the NPS as a whole.

I would encourage managers to venture forth with their historians into the OAH world. This investment is as important as seasonal training, interpretive skills, and other core competencies.

—Joanne Hanley
Superintendent

Women's Rights NHP

(Editor's note: Please see article by Keith Snyder, p. 34, this issue.)

Dear Editor:

In Jonathan Bayless' article, "WWW Sites of Interest to Cultural Resources Personnel," *CRM*, Vol. 18, No. 9, he recommends "Internet Resources for Heritage Conservation, Historic Preservation and Archeology." However, he attributes it to the wrong organization (World Heritage Centre) and gives the wrong address. The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training has taken over the compilation of this document from Peter Stott. The correct World Wide Web address is http://www.icomos.org/Internet_Resource_Guide.html. The document is also maintained by the Center on our gopher at [gopher://gopher.ncptt.nps.gov](http://gopher.ncptt.nps.gov). When the Center's Web page is completed the Web version will be transferred there.

—Mary S. Carroll
Information Management
Specialist

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Using Museum Collections

Dear Editor:

I am writing to express my appreciation for *CRM* magazine. I have been reading it for the last several years and I have found the articles to be very informative.

I was especially impressed with volume 18, number 10. The

articles on using museum collections demonstrated the rich diversity of material and information available through the NPS network. The issue also provided an opportunity for the dedicated people who manage the material at the local level to introduce themselves to their colleagues around the nation.

—Mark Druss, Ph.D.
Archeologist
Environmental Affairs
Idaho Power, Boise, ID

Dear Editor:

Kudos to Jean H. Rodeck (Swearingen) and all the museum folks throughout the service for putting together the excellent *CRM* issue titled *Using Museum Collections* (Vol. 18, No. 10).

Articles on object-related issues show our collections are alive and well, are valuable for research, and are being planned for into the next century. The technical aspects of maintaining museum collections are also well covered. These articles ably illustrate the Service is actively seeking and using up-to-date techniques to preserve and protect our valuable museum collections.

Finally! A single volume of *CRM* that focuses on the objects in the Service's collections around which much of our country's historic interest and most of the Service's interpretive programs are centered. This is one *CRM* I'll read from cover to cover. Maybe one issue every year or two can be devoted to this significant topic.

—Allan L. Montgomery
Staff Curator, Harpers Ferry

Remembering Fort Orange

Dear Editor:

Twenty five years ago, I was 14 years old. My mom signed me on to be a summer volunteer in the Helderberg Workshop. I dug all that summer in the side yard of the Phillip Schuyler mansion, unearthing broken glass and ceramics, many old nails, and an

unbelievable number of clay pipe fragments. In the fall, veteran digger that I was, I was called up to help with the salvage work at what was believed to be the old Fort Orange site on the banks of the Hudson River, in the looming shadow of the new highway.

I remember Paul Huey well, clambering around the trenches in the muggy summer weather of upstate New York. We had fun and he taught us solid skills. A couple of years later, I had the good fortune to continue digging up old Albany. I was hired onto the crew at the Quakenbush House in downtown Albany, thanks in part to my work experience at the Schuyler mansion.

I milked my experience for all it was worth through college and beyond, building up a pretty good resume over time. It helped me earn my degree and steered me toward a future career. And now here I am, too many years later, a historian in the Montana SHPO office.

I was excited to read the Fort Orange article (*CRM*, Vol. 18, No. 7). As a kid I never really knew what all came of our excavation work. And of course I sent a copy of the article to my mom.

Thanks Paul, for the article and a great start. You may not even remember me now. But I remember you.

—Chere Jiusto

National Register Coordinator

Helena, MT

December 20, 1995

STATE NEWS

The MAPIT Project

The Branch of Mapping and Information Technologies in the Heritage Preservation Services Program of the National Park Service has adapted a popular Geographic Information System (GIS) software package, ArcView, to

organize State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) statewide inventories. MAPIT (Mapping and Preservation Inventory Tool) is a GIS designed to fit any SHPO inventory by combining information about where historic properties are located with information about what these properties look like. MAPIT can display inventory information as a map, chart, table, and—through a linked database—generate standard survey forms, National Register nomination forms, and other forms in use by preservationists. This information can be distributed in hard copy, diskette, via the modem, or over the Internet.

MAPIT will help SHPOs look at their inventory in new ways. Inventory data can be displayed in the context of each SHPO program area such as Review and Compliance, Certified Local Governments, and Preservation Tax Incentives program, to name but a few. The inventory can be looked at in reference to federal, state, and local agency jurisdictions, correlated with census demographic, housing, land use, or elevation data. MAPIT presents the SHPO with a “one stop shopping” tool to view information on individual historic properties such as site plans, HABS/HAER drawings, photographs, narrative text, or any other type of digital information.

Through a point-and-click Windows environment, the SHPO can view their inventory in three ways. First, the “program view” looks at the inventory on a statewide scale to see broad patterns and relationships among map themes (e.g., roads, streams, land use, agency jurisdictions, etc.). The insights gained from looking at these maps can form a basis for preservation planning, policy review, and other strategic analyses. At the “project view” data are presented on a county-wide scale to see detailed patterns and relationships among map themes as one basis for project planning such as potential impact

of construction projects on historic properties, planning subgrantee surveys, defining National Register boundaries, or overlaying historic properties onto agency jurisdictions such as park units, forests, etc. At this scale, U.S. Census data complete with population and housing data can be used in analyzing the population trends and housing environments in areas surrounding historic properties.

Finally, the “property view” provides a “one stop shopping” for information about historic properties on the statewide inventory. The focus is on the individual historic property rather than on a group of properties. Consequently, information is displayed in an inventory format rather than a map. The program running behind the database allows the SHPO to ask more complex questions with faster replies, and to generate hard copy reports and forms.

MAPIT represents a National Park Service program initiative designed to bring together the power and functionality of GIS with the traditional query power of databases into a single unified system. One important feature of MAPIT is that current SHPO efforts in automating their inventory can continue and still take advantage of MAPIT. NPS technical assistance in GIS and inventory automation will revolve around MAPIT. Eventually MAPIT will be fitted to cultural resource databases within the NPS and linked to Global Positioning Systems as well.

For more details on MAPIT, contact Dr. John J. Knoerl, Acting Chief, Branch of Mapping and Information Technologies, 202-343-2239; email: john_knoerl@nps.gov, or Scott Oglesby, author of MAPIT, 202-343-1118; email: scott_oglesby@nps.gov.

—John J. Knoerl

Scott Oglesby

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